



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

February 16, 2018

Case No. F-2016-01568
Segment: L/PD-0003, 0004, 0005

Arthur Spitzer, Esq.
American Civil Liberties Union of the Nation's Capital
4301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 434
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Spitzer:

I refer to our letter dated December 15, 2017, regarding the release of certain Department of State records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") 5 U.S.C. § 552.

The review of 138 documents responsive to your request has been completed and we have determined that all 138 documents must be withheld in full pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 5 and 6, 5 U.S.C. §§ (b)(5) and (b)(6). An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding. In some cases, two or more exemptions may apply to the same document.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, please contact DOJ Trial Attorney Ryan Parker at 202-514-4336 or ryan.parker@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric F. Stein".

Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:
As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

- (b)(6) Personal privacy information

- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester